

## SAG-AFTRA 118-day strike makes gains, contract vote set

BY LAURA GARZA

LOS ANGELES — After a historic strike lasting 118 days, which partly overlapped with a strike against the same industry bosses by the Writers Guild of America, the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists reached a tentative agreement with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers. Workers took down their picket lines Nov. 9.

The union has been fighting for significant wage raises, for protection against exploitation from the use of artificial intelligence or digital images, and for access to the facts on streaming to assure better compensation. Union members will vote on the contract from Nov. 14 to Dec. 5.

Workers on the picket lines said they were battling boss moves that relegated more and more of them to the status of gig workers, with shorter contracts and lower pay in what is already an industry

Continued on page 2

## States kick over 2 million kids off Medicaid so far this year

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

With pitiless disregard for the consequences, state officials have kicked at least 2 million children off Medicaid coverage over the past seven months, exacerbating severe challenges workers face trying to raise and care for families.

“The figures, which are likely a significant undercount, represent one of the fastest and most dramatic ruptures in the American safety net since Medicaid went into law in 1965,” said a Nov. 9 *New York Times* article.

Under the federal COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency program, begun in January 2020 under the Donald Trump administration, enrollment in Medicaid or the federal Children’s Health Insurance Program rose from 71 million to 93 million people over the next three years. It covered over 25% of the U.S. population and half of all children. Medicaid paid for 41% of births in the U.S.

In April, after the pandemic program

Continued on page 9

## 200,000 rally against Jew-hatred Back existence of Israel as refuge for Jews



AP/Mark Schiefelbein

Massive nationwide rally in Washington, D.C., Nov. 14 defends Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews, demands release of hostages held by Hamas and protests growing antisemitic attacks.

### Washington marchers say: No to cease-fire, prevent more pogroms

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WASHINGTON — Some 200,000 protesters from across the country came out on the National Mall here Nov. 14 to rally against the Tehran-organized-and-backed Hamas slaughter of over 1,200 people in Israel Oct. 7, overwhelmingly Jewish. The banner at the front said, “Americans: March for Israel, March to Free Hostages, March Against Antisemitism.”

The Hamas assault was aimed at agricultural Kibbutzim along the Gaza border, killing and taking hostage Jews, Bedouin Arabs, and farmworkers from Thailand, Nepal and elsewhere.

Since the killings there has been a significant jump in Jew-hating violence

Continued on page 7

### Fight to stop Hamas wins support from both Arabs and Jews alike in Israel

BY SETH GALINSKY

Tehran-backed Hamas has “lost control of Gaza,” Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant announced Nov. 13. But there is still a road ahead to eliminating the murderous Jew-hating organization, which is holding hostages in their network of tunnels in Gaza.

A decisive defeat of Hamas and its allies in Gaza will prevent them from carrying out their stated goal of slaughter-

Continued on page 6

## SWP offers class-struggle road to end Jew-hatred, strengthen unions



Militant/Eric Simpson

Port trucker Dilraj Singh told SWP congressional candidate Margaret Trowe he welcomed the party’s defense of Israel’s right to exist. After their discussion in San Leandro, California, Nov. 5, he got a year’s subscription to the *Militant*, two books, gave \$50 to SWP Party-Building Fund.

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Members of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues in Canada, Australia and the U.K. are discussing the stakes in joining fights against Jew-hatred. They’re talking to workers at their doorsteps, on union picket lines and at protests against Hamas’ Oct. 7 pogrom killing over 1,200 people, overwhelmingly Jews, in Israel and the rising assaults targeting Jews worldwide.

They’re meeting people interested in learning about the party’s program to replace capitalist rule with workers power and open the road to ending Jew-hatred and all oppression once and for all.

By the end of week seven of the eight-week fall campaign to expand the reach of the *Militant*, party branches are on target with 1,195 subscriptions sold toward the goal of 1,350. The goal of selling

Continued on page 3

## Democrats’ assault on constitutional rights aims to keep Trump off ballot

BY TERRY EVANS

A growing series of lawsuits that challenge constitutional protections needed by working people are proceeding against Donald Trump. They’re scheduled to be heard between now and the 2024 election. Among the cases are lawsuits seeking to get the Republican front-runner thrown off the ballot in Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota and elsewhere, based on Section 3 of the Constitution’s 14th Amendment.

That post-Civil War Reconstruction-era provision was passed to bar Confederate politicians and military veterans who had declared war on the North

Continued on page 9

## Moscow supports Hamas, confronts protests against its war on Ukraine

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The Ukrainian people are mounting resolute resistance to Russian President Vladimir Putin’s attempt to conquer their country. At the same time, Israel is fighting to defeat Hamas. The two wars mark a watershed in world politics, with high stakes for the working class. Israel seeks to prevent more bloody massacres of Jews, like the Oct. 7 pogrom carried out by Hamas with the enthusiastic

Continued on page 4

### Inside

Protests hit firebombings, Jew-hating attacks in Quebec 7

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Quebec public workers go on strike against the government

UK Amazon workers fight for union recognition, wage raise

# SAG-AFTRA contract vote set

Continued from front page

with few guarantees for regular work. The proposed contract contains a 7% wage increase for performers effective immediately, followed by a 4% increase in July 2024, and 3.5% the next July. Background actors, stand-ins and photo doubles will immediately get an 11% wage increase, then the same yearly increases as the other actors.

The union also won a change to the way residuals are paid, and more information and pay will be provided by the streaming companies. Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, the union chief negotiator, told the media that actors earn far less in residuals when their work is streamed, compared with network television.

"We were really looking to not only increase, but also to change the way that money is distributed in the streaming system," he said. "The way that the business model has changed, and then the contracts had not kept up with, left our members in a very tight squeeze."

The union also won some guarantees against use of AI without informed consent. Strikers on the picket

line explained actors would often be required to sign consent forms allowing their images to be used not once, but forever, with no guarantee of additional compensation. Signing was a condition for getting the job.

The strike had a ripple effect on thousands of other industry workers. Thousands of caterers; set workers, such as electricians, painters, and carpenters; and truck drivers were laid off.

"We're also grateful to our union siblings who stood by our side," SAG-AFTRA President Fran Drescher said. "We truly could not have succeeded without your unwavering support."

The studio heads hoped to starve out the strikers. "The endgame is to allow things to drag on until union members start losing their apartments and losing their houses," one studio executive told the media.

But the strikers were determined to hold the line. "The strike has been devastating in terms of income and work opportunity, but also inspiring," writer Alessandro Carmon told the *Militant*. "It's a turning point for labor in Hollywood and the labor



SAG-AFTRA

Some 160,000 members of Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists ended 118-day strike Nov. 9. Vote on proposed contract set for Nov. 14 through Dec. 5.

movement in general."

The studio heads also didn't count on the impact of other strikes and union battles that took place, including by UPS workers, Big Three autoworkers and Los Angeles hotel and hospital workers. They all joined each others' protests and picket lines. That solidarity and overwhelming public support for

the strike helped keep morale high.

When she joined a strike rally July 25 in front of Netflix offices, Ana Najera, a contract janitor at Paramount for 31 years and a member of Service Employees International Union, said, "We're here to support actors and writers. We will also need support when our contract expires next May."

## Sales of 'The Jewish Question' high at Oregon book festival

BY VINCENT AUGER

PORTLAND, Ore. — Hundreds of participants at the 2023 Portland Book Festival, held at the Portland Art Museum, came to the table featuring the *Militant* and books from Pathfinder Press. Many were drawn to books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other revolutionaries, as well as headlines in the *Militant* on the deadly Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel. They joined in discussing politics with members and supporters of

the party staffing the table.

"I got *The Jewish Question* because I'm Jewish and I want to understand this history better," Tzipporah Snyder, a resident advisor at a Jewish gap-year program, said. "I'm glad to see that books like these are available here." She also got *Fascism and Big Business* by Daniel Guerin.

Many of the 23 people who bought copies of the *Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon were interested in the party's explanation why the fate of Jews is inextricably tied to the fate of the working class as the crisis of capitalism deepens.

Visitors to the fair bought a total of 66 books, including nine copies of *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* by SWP leaders Jack Barnes, Mary-Alice Waters and Steve Clark. Twenty-three people got *Militant* subscriptions.

After browsing the table, Jo Thomp-

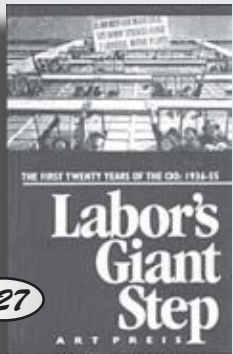
son got an introductory subscription and a copy of *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us*. She said she agreed with the title of the book. "Yes, all these strikes going on lately, after a while you have to ask yourself, 'What's wrong with the system?'"

Thompson described her recent visit to the Netherlands and the impact a visit to the Anne Frank House there had on her and her husband. Anne Frank was a teenage Jew whose family hid from the Nazis after Hitler's forces occupied the country. She was caught and died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Her diary was found, translated into 70 languages and read by millions worldwide.

Thompson said she was convinced working people need to stand up against Jew-hatred and for the right of Israel to exist.

After wide-ranging discussions at the table, many who purchased a subscription or bought a book signed up to keep in touch and learn more about the SWP.

Read about the battles that forged the US labor movement



pathfinderpress.com

## THE MILITANT

### US embargo of Cuba condemned at the UN

Led by Fidel Castro, workers and farmers in Cuba took power in 1959 and made a socialist revolution. Their selfless proletarian internationalism has won worldwide support, reflected in overwhelming U.N. vote against U.S. rulers' six-decade-long economic war on Cuba.



Fidel Castro reads Second Declaration of Havana as million Cubans rally, Feb. 4, 1962.

## SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

### NEW READERS

\$5 for 12 issues

### RENEWAL

\$10 for 12 weeks

\$20 for 6 months

\$35 for 1 year

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,  
306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.  
OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT:  
[WWW.THEMILITANT.COM](http://WWW.THEMILITANT.COM)

## The Militant

Vol. 87/No. 44

Closing news date: November 15, 2023

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Martín Koppel, Roy Landersen, Jacob Perasso, Vivian Sahner, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in June, one week in September.

Business Manager: Bob Bruce

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com)

Website: [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £30 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 5 Norman Road (first floor), Seven Sisters, London, N15 4ND, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 100 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

Australia: Send A\$70 for one year to P.O. Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194 Australia.

New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: Send A\$70 for one year to above address.

Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

# Class-struggle road forward

Continued from front page

ing the same number of books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders is already over the top, with 1,609 sold.

Contributions continue to come in to the SWP's \$140,000 Party-Building Fund, boosted by the party's response to a turning point in world politics following Hamas' massacre. In every area plans are being laid to complete the fund in full and on time.

Port trucker Dilraj Singh met SWP congressional candidate Margaret Trowe in front of a Walmart store in San Leandro, California, Nov. 5. A campaign table with a sign condemning the Jew-hating pogrom in Israel attracted his attention.

Singh told Trowe he welcomed the party's defense of Israel's right to exist. And he described another massacre, this one of Sikhs, that took place in India in 1984. The Indian army killed more than 1,000 in an attack on the Golden Temple in Punjab. The assault aimed to smash rising opposition to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government.

Singh bought a year's subscription to the *Militant*, copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes and *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*. And he gave \$50 to the Party-Building Fund.

In Richmond, California, Trowe spoke with Marcelino Nuno, an Uber driver Nov. 12. "My daughter told me she's upset about civilians dying in Gaza. I told her how Hamas puts people in danger by using them as human shields. I'm against Hamas and what it did," Nuno said. He subscribed to the *Militant*, bought a copy of *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon and contributed \$5 to the Party-Building Fund.

Some 200 people attended a Nov. 9th vigil and remembrance of Kristallnacht at the Illinois Holocaust Muse-

um and Education Center in Skokie, Illinois. The event commemorated the 85th anniversary of the Nazis unleashing a horrific nationwide pogrom in Germany, a decisive turning point in their war to exterminate Jews.

"Why does this keep happening to the Jews?" asked a woman sitting near SWP members Lisa Rottach and Mary Martin.

## Class roots of Jew-hatred

"The class roots of Jew-hatred breed this persecution," Martin said, showing her *The Jewish Question*. "Violent dispossession and virulent scapegoating of Jews have been around for thousands of years. These pogroms will continue until working people, led by a working-class revolutionary party, are organized to overthrow capitalism." The woman bought the book and took a campaign statement the party distributes nationwide by Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida.

Another participant took a copy of the statement and the *Militant* and gave \$20. "This is for what your party is doing," he said.

On the University of Minnesota campus in Minneapolis Nov. 13, students and others passed with curious, approving or angry glances at a table displaying the sign, "Defend Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews — Socialist Workers Party."

"Some debated with us in sharp disagreement," SWP member Gabrielle Prosser told the *Militant*, "and others stopped to share their agreement with our stance. Several stopped to say it was the first time they've seen anyone stand up against this growing Jew-hatred."

"Israel has the right to exist, and that's because Jews have the right to



Militant/Marklyn Wilson

Lisa Potash, left, SWP candidate for Congress from Georgia, showed Michelle Arellano the *Militant* on her doorstep in Fort Valley, Georgia, Nov. 10. Article on challenges in raising a family in today's capitalist crisis caught her eye. She got *Militant* subscription and book in her hand.

exist," student Frank Bass told SWP member Edwin Fruit. "This war has created an environment of Jew-hatred, and my Jewish friends can't be openly Jewish, can't be themselves, without being called terrorists."

"Jew-hatred is a threat not just to Jews, but to all working people. It's important we all take a stand against it," Fruit replied.

A different issue caught the attention of Michelle Arellano when Lisa Potash, SWP candidate for Congress from Georgia, and party member Marklyn Wilson showed her a copy of the *Militant* on her doorstep in Fort Valley, Georgia, Nov. 10. Fort Valley, 90 miles south of Atlanta, is an agricultural area where pecans, peaches and cotton are major crops.

Looking at the paper, Arellano pointed to an article describing the rising challenges workers face raising

children. She said that a family member is facing \$3,000 in bills so far for the impending delivery of her baby. Arellano subscribed to the *Militant* and got a copy of *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism*.

To campaign with SWP or CL members, contact the nearest branch listed on page 8.

## Discounted books for prisoners

Pathfinder Press offers books at a 50% discount plus \$2.75 shipping per order. Prisoners can mail their prepaid orders to: Pathfinder Press, PO Box 162767 Atlanta GA 30321-2767

For more information: [www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com)

# SWP fights Jew-hatred at Oakland school board meeting

BY ANDREA MORELL

OAKLAND, Calif. — Margaret

Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in District 12, and her supporters attended a meeting of the school board here Nov. 8. It was called to discuss a draft resolution the board was putting forward for a cease-fire, for withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and blaming Israel for the danger of a broader war in the Middle East.

Trowe and her supporters were there to join with other opponents of the resolution, to condemn the Oct. 7 Hamas pogrom against Jews in Israel, to oppose Jew-hatred and defend Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews.

Two days earlier the Oakland teachers union had passed a resolution condemning Israel as an "apartheid state" with "genocidal rhetoric and policies" against Palestinians.

Trowe and her campaigners talked with people entering the meeting and distributed her campaign statement, "Fight Jew-hatred! Support the right of Israel to exist!

Battle against Jew-hatred is a working-class question."

Many people came to the meeting to insist on support for a Hamas victory. For them, the board's resolution wasn't hard enough on Jews and Israel. Several refused to take the SWP statement when they read the headline.

"Margaret Trowe, a candidate from the Socialist Workers Party running for Congress, attended the meeting to speak against the resolution," reporter Ashley McBride wrote in the online daily *The Oaklandside*. "I want to oppose the resolution, and I want to support telling children in Oakland about what happened in the 20th century," including the rise of Hitler and the Holocaust, Trowe said. Working people should defend Israel's right to exist, condemn what Hamas did on Oct. 7 and understand the seriousness of Jew-hatred, she said.

Several Jewish people also came to voice opposition to the board resolution.

The meeting was cut short after disruption by pro-Hamas participants. They rose to their feet chanting, "Free, free Palestine!" and shouted the board members down. School board officials then voted to adjourn and exited rapidly out the back door.

On Nov. 10 over 100 people, including teacher-members of the Oakland Education Association, parents of Oakland school children, and leaders of Jewish organizations in the Bay Area, held a rally and press conference opposing the school board resolution.

"We are united to rescind this dangerous resolution," meeting chairperson Tyler Gregory, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, told the protesters. Marc Levine, Central Pacific director of the Anti-Defamation League, said that attacks on Jews have skyrocketed recently.

The Richmond City Council had recently passed a resolution condemning Israel for "ethnic cleansing" and "apartheid."

SWP campaign supporters have taken their opposition to Jew-hatred and to a cease-fire that just supports Hamas to discussions on the job, at political meetings and at workers' doorsteps in Oakland, San Leandro, San Francisco and Richmond.

Carole Lesnick contributed to this article.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### UNITED KINGDOM Manchester

**Building on Progress in Union Fights Today.** Speakers: Stefan Thorpe, Unite union Warrington Refuse strike leader; RMT strike leader from Rail Gourmet dispute; Peter Clifford, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 24, 6 p.m. Donation: £2.50. 329 Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. M2 7PE. Tel.:(0161) 312-8119.

## Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, SWP fund

Sept. 23 - November 21 (week seven)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	50	49	50	57	\$9,500	\$6,177
Chicago	100	85	100	82	\$14,000	\$10,385
Cincinnati	70	57	70	60	\$6,000	\$4,637
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	54	60	55	\$5,250	\$3,375
Lincoln	15	16	15	14	\$500	\$502
Los Angeles	110	108	110	97	\$15,000	\$7,388
Miami	45	29	45	35	\$5,500	\$3,630
Minneapolis	70	63	70	55	\$5,500	\$2,981
N. New Jersey	75	65	75	62	\$7,500	\$4,737
New York	100	73	125	103	\$20,500	\$16,641
Oakland	90	89	90	90	\$15,500	\$13,369
Philadelphia	55	43	55	51	\$6,000	\$3,450
Pittsburgh	50	43	50	27	\$6,250	\$2,205
Seattle	75	69	75	67	\$14,500	\$8,167
Washington	50	37	50	25	\$4,500	\$2,902
Other		40		451		\$620
Total U.S.	1015	920	1040	1,331	\$136,000	\$91,166
Prisoners		95				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	36	45	89		
Manchester	30	29	30	41		
Total U.K.	75	65	75	130		
Canada	95	88	120	124		
Australia	30	27	30	24		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>\$136,000</b>	<b>\$91,166</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>	<b>\$122,500</b>

# Moscow lends support to Hamas

**Continued from front page**  
backing of the bourgeois clerical regime in Iran.

Moscow's top envoy at the U.N., Vasily Nebenzia, claimed Nov. 2 that Israel had no "right for self-defense" against Hamas' murder of Jews, because Israel was an "occupying state." This allegation is made by a regime that denies Ukraine is a legitimate country and is carrying out a genocidal assault against working people there.

If Israel doesn't defeat Hamas, Jew-hating forces worldwide will be emboldened.

"Russia is using the Hamas attack in the most perverted way possible," Gilad Erdan, Israel's ambassador to the U.N., said in response to Nebenzia's comments.

In sharp contrast to Moscow, the Ukrainian government has supported Israel's right to defend itself. Hamas sought to kill as many Jews as it could on Oct. 7. Two days before, Moscow targeted a memorial service for a Ukrainian soldier, unleashing a missile strike in Hroza, killing more than 50 people, one-sixth of the village's entire population.

"Russia needs this attack," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said, "to make its genocidal aggression the new normal for the entire world." On Nov. 10 Ukrainian air defenses downed two-thirds of 31 Tehran-supplied attack drones that were launched by Moscow in a bombardment targeting the densely populated capital, Kyiv. The governments of Russia and Iran have drawn closer in the course of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

## Opposition in Russia to Ukraine war

The Putin regime is trying to stifle opposition to the war at home by detaining over 19,000 people. Prosecutors are

seeking an eight-year prison sentence for Alexandra Skochilenko, who is charged with spreading "fake information" about the country's armed forces.

"I just wanted to stop the war," Skochilenko told a Russian court Nov. 8. The artist and musician was detained in April 2022 for covering price tags at a St. Petersburg supermarket with anti-war stickers. Her supporters keep images of her message tags on a website as they campaign for her freedom. One of her stickers reports how a Russian air strike hit a Mariupol theater killing over 400 civilians who were sheltering there. Others expose the toll on Russian conscripts, now in the hundreds of thousands, calling them "pointless deaths."

Putin's repression doesn't always deter opposition to his regime's war. Student Artyom Sakharov was fined for organizing a memorial event in March for people killed in the conflict. In October he held a poetry reading in the Siberian city of Barnaul, but because he concluded it with "peace to the world," Sakharov was detained overnight and fined again.

The Kremlin is trying to shore up support for its war by funding the production of jingoistic war films. Despite budgets of millions, they have been spectacular flops.

One of the biggest box office bombs was "Svidetel" (Witness), the first movie about the war, with a budget of \$2 million. It depicts Ukrainian soldiers, adorned with swastika tattoos,



Reuters/Anton Vaganov

**Alexandra Skochilenko, antiwar artist, at court hearing in St. Petersburg, Russia, Nov. 14. She faces eight years in prison on charges of spreading "false information" about Russian army by putting stickers over supermarket price tags with facts on Moscow's brutal invasion of Ukraine.**

killing civilians as the "liberating" Russian invasion approaches. In the first four days it took in only \$70,000 across over a thousand theaters.

"It's a lie upon a lie upon a lie, and artists don't even bother pretending they're serious," Konstantin, an English teacher from the western Russian city of Tula, told Al Jazeera. "It should be shown in Ukraine as a comedy."

Askold Kurov co-produced "Welcome to Chechnya," a 2020 award-winning documentary about the persecution of gays there. Russian film production, he told Al Jazeera, is based on state subsidies and the "embezzlement of huge budgets."

"These days, nobody truly believes in what they're doing," Kurov said, "unlike Eisenstein or Dovzhenko."

Sergei Eisenstein made the 1925 movie "Battleship Potemkin," about a sailors' mutiny backing the 1905 Russian Revolution. Ukrainian director Alexander Dovzhenko made "Earth" in 1930, about peasant reaction to the onset of forced collectivization of farms by the increasingly counterrevolutionary regime of Joseph Stalin as it reversed the gains of the Bolshevik-led Russian Revolution.

Both these movies were suppressed by Stalin, but are still studied as classics in film schools worldwide today.

# Teamster warehouse workers fight boss union busting

BY BERNIE SENTER

COMMERCE, Calif. — Six hundred warehouse workers at Smart & Final grocery chain in the distribution center here and in Riverside

went on strike Nov. 1.

After Teamsters Local 630 overwhelmingly won union elections there last spring, the company announced it was closing the warehouses down at the end of the year, going to fire all the workers and reopens a new, nonunion facility in nearby Rancho Cucamonga.

Workers, many who have worked there for decades, were told they could reapply for a job.

"They underestimated our solidarity," Joe Lagano told the *Militant*. Lagano is on the union negotiating committee and has worked at the distribution center for 32 years. "The company is getting weaker and weaker, and we are getting stronger and stronger."

Workers have been fighting for their

first contract. For months they've leafleted grocery stores to win support from customers. "First, we tried five stores. The customers were all for us," he said. "Then we expanded to 15 and 25 stores. With the help of other Teamsters union locals we've hit 100 stores in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Nevada."

Lagano has worked here long enough to remember when the union was decertified in 1992. "We were younger and we didn't see the union doing much for us. The company president promised us everything if we voted out the union." Since then the company has chiseled away "at Sunday premium, bonuses and working conditions. They nicked and dimed us and here we are 30 years later."

## UCLA march says 'Free hostages held by Hamas!'



Militant/Norton Sandler

LOS ANGELES — "Free the hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza" was the demand of some 400 students and others who joined a rally and march at the University of California at Los Angeles campus here Nov. 7. Tables with more than 200 empty chairs and place settings were set up at the rally site to symbolize the 240 plus hostages Hamas seized as part of its Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel.

The event was hosted by Bruins for Israel, the campus Hillel chapter, the Israeli Consulate General in Los Angeles and other organizations. Rally speakers included students, rabbis and local politicians. It was followed by a spirited march through the campus.

"UCLA has so many anti-Israel students. We thought it was important to show the administration and students that Jewish students are present here and that we want our hostages home," UCLA student Liz Rosen told the *Militant* at the action. "All these things, false things are said," she added. "That Israel is a colonial country, that it practices genocide and is an apartheid state."

"We were effective with the Shabbat table with pictures of the hostages in showing that we care for our own people," Rosen said, "that human beings were involved in what happened on Oct. 7."

— NORTON SANDLER

**\$14 for each title**



**NEW INTERNATIONAL**

A MAGAZINE OF MARXIST POLITICS AND THEORY

# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

## Quebec public workers go on strike against the government

MONTREAL — Some 420,000 public workers went on strike for the first time Nov. 6, demanding a new contract with the Quebec government. A majority of them are health and education workers united in a Common Front of four union federations. These are the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN), the Quebec Federation of Workers (FTQ), the Federation of Quebec Unions (CSQ) and the Alliance of Professional and Technical Personnel in health and social services (APTS).

The 80,000 members of the Interprofessional Health Federation of Quebec (FIQ) went on strike Nov. 8-9. The FIQ, which negotiates apart from the Common Front, largely organizes nurses.

Key issues in the negotiations are wages and working conditions. “We need wages that make it possible to keep your head above inflation,” Daniel Gagne told the *Militant* on the picket line in front of the Sacre-Coeur hospital Nov. 8. He is president of the Union of Health Care Professionals of the North of the Montreal Island, an FIQ affiliate. “The negotiations are going nowhere,” he said.

“Forced overtime is one of the most important things for us,” striker Lise Rivera said in front of the Jean-Talon hospital. “They need more personnel.”

Aurelie McBrearty, a nurse at the University Hospital Center of Montreal, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent that the government intends to raise the retirement age for nurses by two years. A nurse with 35 years of seniority can retire at 55 today.

On all the picket lines visited during the strikes, *Militant* supporters were struck by the widespread support strikers got from drivers passing by.

The Common Front announced it will go on strike again Nov. 21-23, and the FIQ Nov. 23-24. The Autonomous Education Federation (FAE), which organizes 65,500 primary and secondary teachers, is set to begin an unlimited strike Nov. 23.

All six union federations have rejected the Quebec government’s new proposal to increase wages from 9% to 10.3% over five years.

— Michel Prairie

## Chicago-area mechanics fight to defend health care and union

ALSIP, Ill. — Sixty mechanics, parts-counter workers and other members of International Association of Machinists Mechanics’ Union Local 701 went out on strike at M&K Truck Centers in this south Chicago suburb Nov. 1.

They are pushing back against the company’s attempt to replace the union medical and retirement plans with substantially worse benefits, including tripling the out-of-pocket costs for health care. The union is also fighting to end a divisive two-tier wage structure.

“It’s do or die for the union. If we accept their proposal, it would be easy for the company to get rid of it, like they did at their shop in Joliet,” said striker Bill, who did not give his last name for fear of company retaliation. Only two M&K facilities are still unionized, here and in nearby Summit, out of its 27 truck-maintenance locations.

The company is trying to keep running using managers and replacement

workers. IAM members are picketing weekdays 6 a.m. to midnight, and shorter hours on Saturdays. They give people who come to the center a flyer explaining the issues in the strike and asking them not to patronize M&K until it’s settled. And they welcome others to join their picket line at 5300 W. Plattner Drive, Alsip.

— Naomi Craine

## UK Amazon workers fight for union recognition, wage raise

COVENTRY, England — Beginning Nov. 7, 1,000 Amazon workers at the distribution center here carried out a three-day strike, fighting for union recognition and a wage raise. The members of the General Municipal and Boilermakers union announced they will walk out again Nov. 24, so-called Black Friday, when unionists at Amazon plants in Europe and the U.S. will also take action.

Some 150 workers joined the noisy dawn picket. Fellow members of the GMB union came from around the country in support. “Workers coming together in today’s show of force is very important” said Kelvin Enabulele, GMB representative at Pioneer Foods in Cumbria, 200 miles away. “Your fight is our fight.”

Other GMB representatives came from the Yodel warehouse and Pilgrim Foods — both in London. Ali Haydor, an Uber driver from Southampton, said, “We won GMB recognition. Amazon workers can do so too.”

“We’re working 10-hour shifts. Many are forced to work 60-hour weeks — with its heavy toll on family life. They pay workers at different fulfillment centers differently and justify the differential by referring to other warehouses in the area,” Garfield Hylton, one of the union leaders at Coventry, told the *Militant*. He and other pickets said that workers at other warehouses, including just across the road, get considerably more. Amazon has said that wages at Coventry will increase to 12.30 pounds (\$15) an hour in April, but “that’s only because we’ve been taking action.”

“We’re not just pushing for recognition at Coventry” said Hylton, who’s



Christinne Muschi/The Canadian Press

Some 420,000 health, education and social services workers in Quebec went on a one-day strike Nov. 6 for better wages and working conditions. On Nov. 8-9 80,000 nurses also struck.

worked at the Coventry center since it opened five years ago. They’ve travelled to other warehouses in the Midlands — Nuneaton and Mansfield — as well as to Cardiff in South Wales. “We’ve leafleted workers going into work and explained that we’re available to help their efforts.”

Workers at the newly opened center in Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham, are balloting for strike action, reported GMB organizer Rachel Fagan.

“When Sutton Coldfield opened, a number of union members from here, and from the Rugeley warehouse, which is being closed, got jobs there, and they’ve taken the fight with them,” Hylton said. “But there’s no quick fix. The company inevitably puts obstacles in our path — recruiting workers just to push down the unionized proportion; starting new hires on fixed-term contracts. And we have to overcome the challenges of uniting workers with many different languages.”

“We need 15 pounds an hour,” striker Destiny Obi said at the end of the action. Food price inflation hit nearly 20% last year and remains over 10%, the government says.

— Jonathan Silberman

## Portland teachers walk out, their first strike ever

PORTLAND, Ore. — Members and supporters of the Socialist Work-

ers Party participating in the Portland Book Festival Nov. 4 took advantage of the opportunity to bring solidarity to two strikes in the area. The first-ever strike by members of the Portland Association of Teachers against the Public Schools system began Nov. 1.

The same day, imaging technicians and pharmacists, members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, walked out, joining a strike in progress by pharmacists at Kaiser Permanente medical facilities in the area.

Portland teachers picket at all 81 public schools every weekday morning. There are over 3,500 union teachers. The key issues are smaller classes, more time for on-the-job preparation and a substantial pay increase.

At a Vancouver, Washington, picket line, Kaiser striker Jen McRayde, an X-ray technician with 15 years on the job, said they’re fighting for higher wages. “Kaiser used to be top pay and benefits, now they’re below average,” she explained.

Kaiser Permanente is a “nonprofit” that reported profits of \$2.3 billion in the second-quarter this year. Many strikers welcomed the solidarity as people driving by honked in support. Strikers will be picketing daily through Nov. 18 at facilities in Clackamas, Portland, and in Vancouver.

— Vincent Auger

## — 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



November 30, 1998

PITTSBURGH — The return of UN “inspectors” to Baghdad — under the guise of “hunting for weapons of mass destruction” — sets the stage for more provocations, which Washington will use as a pretext to launch a military assault.

Their “aggressive” inspections have nothing to do with searching for chemical or biological weapons.

The presence of these provocateurs in Iraq serves the U.S. rulers’ propaganda for pressing their dominance in the Arab-Persian Gulf, trampling on the sovereignty of Iraq, and paving the way for bombing raids.

Working people around the world, especially in the U.S., need to demand these “inspectors” get out of Iraq, that the criminal embargo strangling Iraq be lifted, and that Washington get all its troops out of the Middle East.



November 30, 1973

In New York City workers in 48 hospitals and nursing homes walked out on Nov. 5. They had been waiting four months for the Cost of Living Council in Washington to approve a pay raise recommended by a state arbitration panel.

A federal judge in New York ordered the strikers back to work, fined the union a half million dollars plus \$25,000 for every day the strike continued, and laid heavy fines on the officials. Thus the strikers, under a barrage of propaganda about their “disregard for the lives of patients,” were forced back to work for wages not far above the poverty level.

The use of government machinery to penalize the poor presents a problem that cannot be overcome by any union or by the entire union movement so long as it limits its defense to the strike weapon and fails to tackle the capitalist political structure.



November 29, 1948

Have you seen the articles sprouting like weeds in the newspapers lately solemnly declaring that there are “too many people” in the world?

Fifty million lives lost in the war: hundreds of thousands more wiped out by three years of “peace” with its hunger, cold and disease; and the list still grows in the cities of Europe. Yet the stooges of capitalism dare to raise that old scare-story: “There isn’t room for us all!”

Every woman must have the right to decide how many children she will bear. But this decision should be based on her own wishes, not the frantic hue-and-cry of capitalist propagandists. The capitalists are not interested in helping mothers shape their own lives. Their real purpose in reviving the old scare-story is simple and cynical.

The problem isn’t “too many people.” It’s “too many capitalists.”

# Fight to stop Hamas wins support

## Continued from front page

ing more Jews; help defend Israel's right to exist as a safe haven for the Jewish people; open the door to Palestinians in Gaza having more control over their lives; and give an important boost to the fight against Jew-hating violence rising worldwide. It will set back attempts by the bourgeois-clerical regime in Iran to extend its counterrevolutionary influence in the region.

Apologists for Tehran and Hamas claim that reports that Hamas, Islamic Jihad and its allies slaughtered civilians are "fake news." They hope to help Hamas survive to massacre again by putting pressure on Washington, Paris and other powers to demand Israel agree to an immediate cease-fire.

But their modern-day Holocaust denial falls apart in the face of the facts of the gruesome Oct. 7 assault — the largest single-day massacre of Jews since World War II — and Hamas' brutal use of Palestinian civilians in Gaza as human shields.

Getting an accurate number of those murdered is difficult because the Hamas death squads not only tortured and raped many of their victims — often filming their barbaric acts — but also mutilated and dismembered bodies. They tossed thermobaric grenades that release a plasma cloud that reaches 5,400 degrees Fahrenheit into rooms as they went door to door, incinerating whole families.

The Israeli government has enlisted archaeologists to help identify the remains, recently revising its estimate to 1,200 dead. More than 5,400 were wounded and the gunmen took 240 people hostage.

The Palestinian people in Gaza are suffering harsh conditions as a result of Hamas retreating to their extensive tunnel network under hospitals, schools and apartments. But that is exactly what Tehran, Hamas and their allies wanted. They've done everything in their power to prevent people in Gaza City — where Hamas is based — from fleeing to the south.

"We knew there was going to be a violent reaction," Hamas official Basem Naim told the press Nov. 10. "We are proud to sacrifice martyrs." Hamas' central leadership — living it up in Qatar and other countries far from the conflict — uses Palestinian deaths to gain sympathy and financing from the United Nations, the regime in Qatar and others.

## War on Hamas, not Gaza people

Hamas claims that Israel is targeting hospitals and committing genocide, a charge echoed by its apologists around the world. But as Israeli soldiers consolidate their control over Gaza City, they are showing Hamas bases and arms depots built in their tunnels under area hospitals.

Why base Hamas underneath hospitals? "You won't strike them," Omar Abu Rusha, a captured Hamas member, told Israeli interrogators.

IDF spokesperson Adm. Daniel Hagari showed photos of a Hamas command center in the basement of the Rantisi children's hospital to the press Nov. 13. Israeli forces entered after working with the hospital management to make sure patients were evacuated to a safer place.

They found a wide variety of weap-

ons there. "Hamas uses hospitals as an instrument of war," Hagari said. "Our war is against Hamas, not against the people in Gaza."

On Nov. 14 Israeli soldiers entered Al-Shifa Hospital, the largest hospital complex in Gaza City, which Israel says is a key Hamas command center. They have already found weapons stored underneath it.

Hamas' dictatorial grip on Gaza is cracking. Hundreds of people at a U.N. shelter in Gaza City have been shouting insults against Hamas in the middle of the night when its rockets are heard streaming toward Israel.

Angry crowds hurled stones at Hamas police who cut in front of Gazans on line waiting for water and forced them to flee, The Associated Press said. On Nov. 7 a young man with a bandaged wrist briefly disrupted a televised press conference in Gaza by Iyad Bozum, Hamas interior minister. "May God hold you to account, Hamas!" the man yelled.

On Nov. 14, a reporter for Al Jazeera asked an elderly man at a Gaza hospital how he got hurt. The man replied, "Why is Hamas hiding among us civilians? Why don't they go to hell and hide there instead?" The reporter cut off the interview and walked away.

## Arab citizens of Israel

Defenders of Hamas and Tehran never mention that 21% of the population of Israel are Arabs. A poll taken since Oct. 7 by the Israel Democracy Institute found that 70% of Arab citizens of Israel say they feel part of the country, a big rise since June when only 48% said so.

While Hamas' main goal Oct. 7 was to kill as many Jews as possible, it also killed immigrant farmworkers and 24 Arab citizens of Israel and is holding seven as hostage. Many Arabs in Israel know what it would mean for both Jews and Arabs if Hamas and Tehran were successful.

Jamal Waraqui is a Muslim volunteer in Israel's ZAKA emergency rescue service, which has been part of efforts to identify the remains of those killed Oct. 7. "I am a part of this country, like every Arab, Muslim, Druze and Christian," he told Channel 12 News. "We have to do our part."

Hamas falsely portrays itself as fighting for the interests of the Palestinian people and tries to take advantage of the discrimination and racism that exists in Israel to gain followers among Palestinian citizens and permanent residents of Israel.

Saleh Badriya and his wife, Atheel Badriya-Halabi, are members of the Arabic-speaking Druze minority in Israel and are helping to get out the truth about the Hamas atrocities. Unlike Palestinian and Bedouin Arabs in Israel, Druze men can be drafted and many are veterans of the Israel Defense Forces.

"We've met with a lot of Arab students in universities, some of whom have opinions that aren't easy, but they're starting to say that if that is Hamas' way to free Palestinians, they don't want anything to do with it," Bariyda-Halabi told the *Times of Israel*. "We've worked hard to show Arab Israelis, in particular, that this is a terror organization, that it's worse than ISIS."

One reason Tehran and Hamas chose to attack in October was that they thought heated divisions inside Israel over a ju-



Arabs, Jews work together packing food, toiletries Nov. 8 at community center in Rahat, Israel, for thousands of Bedouin, Jewish Israelis, jobless in Negev after Hamas pogrom Oct. 7.

dicial reform backed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would weaken the Israeli government's response.

Instead, the pogrom "was a wake-up call," retired Israel Chemicals worker Martin Stone told the *Militant* by phone from Beersheba Nov. 14. "Everyone united around this and sees that we need to see this through."

"Before this a lot of Israelis were talking about moving to another country. Instead, they are staying and more Jews want to move here," he said. "In Europe they tell Jews to keep a low profile."

Thousands of Israelis are volunteering to salvage crops planted near the border with Gaza, after many immigrant farmworkers quit, fearful in the wake of the Hamas attack.

## Bringing together Jews and Arabs

Meetings that bring together Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel are being organized around the country "to talk about solidarity instead of incitement," Chloé Porthault, spokesperson for the Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality, said by phone Nov. 13. "We know that not everything is flowers in relations between Jews and Arabs, but what is important is that everyone tried to help each other." The Coexistence Forum works to build "Arab-Jewish partnership."

Many Bedouin Arabs, who live in southern Israel, helped rescue people who had been attacked by Hamas, Porthault noted. Now many of the farms and factories where they work have been closed because of the war.

At the Jewish community center in the predominantly Bedouin town of Rahat in central Israel, hundreds of Jewish and Bedouin Israelis every Wednesday since Oct. 7 gather to pack boxes with food, toys and toiletries for those most affected. Half go to Bedouin families and half to Jewish families in nearby towns.

## Blatant thuggery, Jew-hatred

The Jew-hatred and thuggery of organizers of pro-Hamas demonstrations in the U.S. are becoming more open. At a "Flood Manhattan for Gaza" protest Nov. 10, participants chanted, "We don't want a Jewish state," and "Settlers, settlers go back home! Palestine is ours alone." Tehran and Hamas claim Jews in Israel, including small children, are "settlers" and fair targets for killing.

One pro-Hamas participant told a counterprotester, "I'll f-k you up if I see

you!" the *New York Post* reported.

But opponents of Jew-hatred refuse to be silent. Jewish student groups on campus have organized protests against Jew-hatred. And over 200,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C., Nov. 14 to defend Israel's rights to exist as a refuge for Jews.

Meanwhile, it's becoming clearer that despite the Joseph Biden administration's professed support for the war to defeat Hamas, the White House is stepping up pressure on the Israeli government to pull back. It says that Israeli forces must do more to protect civilians and should accept a cease-fire, under the guise of "pausing" the fighting. But that would open the door for Hamas to re-organize and prepare more pogroms. In fact, the Israeli government does pause its assaults for four hours every day to let civilians get out of areas its forces are targeting.

"The State of Israel will not stop its operations in Gaza until our troops fulfill their missions; destroying Hamas and returning our hostages home to their families," Defense Minister Galant pointedly told U.S. diplomat Brett McGurk Nov. 14.

# 200,000 rally against Jew-hatred

## Continued from front page

in the U.S. and other countries. Threats and attacks have been widespread on college campuses. One of the aims of the march was to appeal for solidarity against this violence.

Socialist Workers Party members joined the action from Atlanta, New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C., introducing the *Militant* and books by party leaders. They raised why the question of Jew-hatred needed to be taken up by the unions and discussed the class-struggle road to fight antisemitism.

"This is a fight for humanity. Jews are being scapegoated with violence and ugly demagoguery. Don't turn a blind eye," Monica Wasser, a 43-year-old welder from Jacksonville, Florida, told the *Militant*.

Shep Fargotstein, one of 180 participants from Memphis, Tennessee, said, "Overnight, Jews from around the world are facing antisemitism." He said he wanted to press the demand, "Bring home the hostages."

Participants in the action came from Los Angeles to Houston, from New York and Cleveland, and small towns like Egg Harbor, New Jersey, and Inwood, West Virginia. The crowd greatly overflowed the fences authorities put up to contain the protest.

Many described how they have faced Jew-hatred from middle-class radicals who back Hamas' murderous assault. They also commented on how the liberal press, like the *Washington Post*, has shifted its focus from the cause of the fighting — Hamas' slaughter and threats by its leaders to do it again and again until all Jews are gone — onto the disastrous situation facing people in Gaza.

Yaakov Komisar, a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and a reservist in the Israel Defense Forces, who was a couple of years too old to be called back to active duty, joined the rally with his son and his son's friend from a Jewish

school in Baltimore. "In the middle of a war, whatever weakness in how the Israeli government treats the Palestinians doesn't mean you have the right to question Israel's very existence. This is also what I told my co-workers."

Hamas shows no concern for the conditions of people in Gaza. They say that's the problem of the United Nations. Instead, they build tunnels and arms caches under hospitals, schools and other civilian structures. It is Hamas that bears the responsibility for what Palestinians in Gaza face today.

Family members of some of the 240 hostages taken by Hamas were featured speakers. Alana Zeitchik, whose six family members were kidnapped from their kibbutz, told the crowd, "You can abhor the suffering of Palestinian families and the suffering of Israeli families like mine."

Elisheva Salomon Lerman participated along with her friend, Genet Elias, both Ethiopian Jews who lived in Bat Yam, Israel. "This is against us too. We are also the prisoners of Hamas. This is an attack on Arabs living in Israel," Lerman said. Some 140,000 Ethiopian Jews live in Israel and some 21% of the Israeli population is Arab.

Maximo Arango, a Cuban American auto mechanic from Miami, came out to show his support, carrying large Israeli and Cuban flags. "I can tell you this about what I learned growing up. In Cuba, we don't know this kind of hatred and racism."

"It's very beautiful to have everyone here to demonstrate for Israel after what happened on Oct. 7," said Denny Peñate, originally from El Salvador and currently living in Houston. He came to D.C. to visit his mother and then saw the demonstration. "I'm not Jewish, but I joined in."

The rally program included Israeli resident Isaac Herzog, speaking through a live video feed. Other speakers included political figures like U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer and



Participants in Nov. 14 rally in Washington, D.C., protest against Hamas' Oct. 7 pogrom.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, Hollywood figures and others.

Participants in the protest bought over 115 copies of the *Militant* and 34 subscriptions. Ten copies of *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon, a Belgian revolutionary who died in the Auschwitz death camp in 1944, were sold, as well as seven copies of *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*. Several people gave donations for the party.

"Working people need to break with

the parties of the bosses — the Democrats and Republicans — and build their own parties, here and worldwide, that can lead the fight for workers power and socialism," Joanne Kuniandy, who was the SWP candidate for the New Jersey State Senate this year, told people she talked to. "Taking political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers is the only way to put an end to Jew-hatred once and for all."

Sara Lobman and Mike Galati contributed to this article.

### Solidarity with Jewish neighbor in W. Virginia town

Heading to the Washington, D.C., national protest in support of Israel and against Jew-hatred, on the train from Dulles Airport, I and fellow Socialist Workers Party member Sam Manuel struck up a discussion with Julie Lippman and her son. They came from Inwood, West Virginia, a town of some 3,000. She attends a synagogue in a nearby city because Inwood no longer has one. "Two years ago I had put up in my front yard for my kids a menorah and blow-up teddy bear with a dreidel, to celebrate Hanukkah, both electrified to light up," Lippman said. "Then someone cut the wires. "A non-Jewish neighbor learned of this and organized another neighbor who's an electrician to repair the wiring at no charge. As word spread about this in my neighborhood, other non-Jewish neighbors took the initiative to buy menorahs, and put them up in their windows." After our discussion, Lippman got a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of *The Jewish Question* by Abram Leon.

— LISA POTASH

## SPECIAL OFFER FOR MILITANT SUBSCRIBERS

### Books workers need today

About building the only kind of party worthy of the name "revolutionary"

20% OFF  
ALL OTHER  
PATHFINDER TITLES



ALL 5 BOOKS ABOVE FOR \$40 WITH A MILITANT SUBSCRIPTION

- Teamster Rebellion / \$10
- The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record / \$5
- Maurice Bishop Speaks / \$15
- The Jewish Question / \$12
- Tribunes of the People & the Trade Unions / \$7
- Cuba and the Coming American Revolution / \$5
- Are They Rich Because They're Smart? / \$5

SEE DISTRIBUTORS ON PAGE 8 OR VISIT [PATHFINDERPRESS.COM](http://PATHFINDERPRESS.COM)

# Protests hit firebombings, Jew-hating attacks in Quebec

## BY STEVE PENNER

MONTREAL — "Our community has 250 years of history in Quebec. We are proud, we are Quebecers, we're not going anywhere. This campaign of terror against us will not succeed," Eta Yudin, Quebec vice president at the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, told a press conference here Nov. 9.

She was referring to a series of attacks against Jewish schools, institutions and students. These included the firebombing of the Congregation Beth Tikvah synagogue and the offices of Federation CJA, a Jewish organization, one month after the Hamas Oct. 7 pogrom killed over 1,200 Jews in Israel.

The National Council of Canadian Muslims condemned the "cowardly and appalling" shots fired at two Montreal Jewish schools Nov. 9. One of the Jewish schools was hit for a second time on Nov. 12.

Yudin said that the Nov. 9 attack on the schools is even more traumatic because it came on the 85th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Nazi-organized anti-Jewish pogroms in Germany in 1938 that marked the beginning of the Holocaust.

On the same day, pro-Hamas students at McGill University demonstrated, calling for a cease-fire by Israel. They publicized it using an image of a crowd kicking in glass windows, a crude antisemitic reference to Kristallnacht.

The day before, several Jewish students at Concordia University put up a table with displays calling for the release of the 240 hostages held by Hamas. They were physically attacked by a group of anti-Israel students and others. Some attackers shouted Jew-hating slurs. One yelled at a Jewish woman, "Go back to Poland, whore." Two students were injured.

At an Oct. 28 anti-Israel demonstration organized by the Palestinian Youth Movement, the notorious Jew-hating Imam Adil Charkaoui called for the killing of Israeli citizens and the destruction of Israel.

"Allah, count every one of them and kill them all, and do not exempt even one of them," he said in Arabic. Many in the crowd responded with cheers.

At a Militant Labor Forum attended by 20 people here Nov. 11, Communist League member John Steele explained the international campaign

led by many capitalist governments and the middle-class left for a cease-fire by Israel is a way of giving support to Hamas.

"It's outrageous that Ottawa is pressing Israel to carry out a 'pause' and 'negotiate' with an organization that openly declares that its goal is the physical extermination of the Jews," he said. "Working people instead need to support Israel's drive to crush Hamas to prevent that from happening."

"The history of the Nazi Holocaust, the second imperialist world war and imperialism's current drive toward World War III show that the only way to eradicate Jew-hatred is to overthrow the capitalist system and replace its rule with a revolutionary workers' government," Steele explained.

"The examples of the 1917 socialist revolution in Russia led by Vladimir Lenin and the 1959 Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro prove this is the only way to do this."

"This requires the building of mass revolutionary workers parties led by a tested Marxist cadre. This is the objective of the Communist League," Steele concluded.

# Road to end Jew-hating violence is for workers to take power

Below is an excerpt from the review of the new edition of *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon published in the Feb. 1, 2021, issue of the *Militant*. It has been updated since Hamas' Oct. 7 massacre in Israel set off a wave of Jew-hating actions around the world.

## IN REVIEW

BY MAGGIE TROWE

The murderous Oct. 7 pogrom by Tehran-backed Hamas that killed over 1,200 people in Israel, overwhelmingly Jews, shattered the illusion that virulent Jew-hatred ended with the fall of the Nazi regime decades ago. Or that it is only a minor question today.

Why does Jew-hatred persist and how can it be eradicated? This book, kept in print and actively distributed since 1950 by the Socialist Workers Party, answers those questions and shows the road to ending the national oppression of the Jews, which along with the fight for Black emancipation, is an essential component of the coming American revolution.

Abram Leon, a communist and a Polish-born Jew, wrote the book as he took part in leading the underground working-class movement in Nazi-occupied Belgium in the 1940s before being captured by the Gestapo and sent to his death in the Auschwitz gas chambers.

In the crucible of war and pre-revolutionary turmoil, Leon, who had been a teenage leader of a socialist Zionist youth group, went through a rapid political evolution. "Under the impact of the sharpening class struggle ... he broke with its political course and led a fight to win its members to the communist program of the world movement led by Leon Trotsky," the biog-



U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

In 1939 hundreds of Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution on the ship *St. Louis* were forced back to Europe after Washington and Ottawa denied them entry. Many died in the Holocaust. Imperialist powers bar on Jews before, during, after the war helped lead to creation of Israel.

raphy of Leon in the book explains. He was only 26 when he died in 1944.

I was born five years after 6 million Jews were killed under that Nazi-organized Holocaust. My Jewish father and Christian mother gave their bookworm daughter *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank, which chronicles a Jewish teenage girl and her family hiding from the Nazis in Holland in 1942. They also gave me *The Wall*, John Hersey's historical novel about the heroic 1943 uprising of Jews in the Warsaw ghetto. The books gnawed at me. I preferred the one about fighting to the one about waiting to die. But they didn't help me understand why the Jews are persecuted or what to do about it.

That's the most important reason to study *The Jewish Question*.

### Capitalists exploit Jew-hatred

Leon explains that "the profound roots of twentieth century anti-Semitism" were not a "German" or "Hitler" phenomenon, but a product of the rule of the capitalist class and will continue to be a threat as long as dog-eat-dog capitalist social relations dominate.

He chronicles the relationship of Jews to other classes over earlier social stages of human development, explaining that under Greek and Roman rule through the end of antiquity and into the feudal era Jews occupied a distinct social niche, with Jewish merchants thriving. "Jews are historically a social group

with a specific economic function. They are a class, or more precisely, a people-class," Leon writes.

He describes how Jewish merchants also became money-lenders under feudalism and developed economic relations with kings, nobles, artisans and peasants, and the incipient bourgeoisie.

What changed? Capitalism emerged to replace feudalism as the dominant form of class society and exploitation. "It is only from the twelfth century on, parallel with the economic development of Western Europe, with the growth of cities and the formation of a native commercial and industrial class, that the condition of the Jews begins to worsen seriously, leading to their almost complete elimination from most of the Western countries," Leon writes. "Persecutions of the Jews take on increasingly violent forms."

As capitalism became dominant, a social differentiation began among the Jewish people and consequently the coming apart of the people-class. For the first time in centuries, a Jewish working class was created, including in garment and textile. And there was a mass emigration of persecuted Jews from backward Eastern Europe, particularly to the U.S.

"By socially differentiating Jews, by integrat-

ing the latter into economic life, and by emigration," Leon says, "capitalism has laid the bases for the solution of the Jewish problem."

But crisis-racked capitalism couldn't assimilate the Jews. "The fearsome crisis of the capitalist regime in the twentieth century has aggravated the plight of the Jews to an unparalleled degree," Leon writes. And the capitalist rulers found they needed anti-Semitism and Jew-hatred to survive.

This reached a deadly high point with the victory of fascism in Germany and that regime's use of anti-Semitism to win over millions of ruined middle-class people and sections of the demoralized working class after openings for a proletarian revolution there were destroyed by the counterrevolutionary policies of the Stalinists and Social Democrats.

This led to Hitler's "Final Solution."

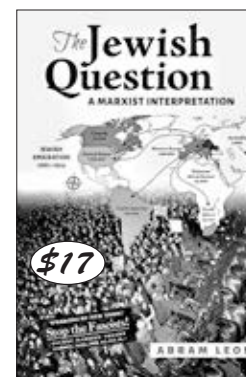
Though Jew-hatred has declined among working people today, anti-Semitism remains a crucial tool the capitalist rulers will employ when social crisis again creates a pre-revolutionary rise of working-class resistance. Studying Leon's book and fighting all acts of Jew-hatred remains crucial for the working-class movement.

Workers in their millions must fight and speak out against all forms of oppression and exploitation under capitalism, along a course of action toward taking political power into our own hands. This is the road toward winning the ruined small proprietors to see their salvation in a workers and farmers government.

There can be no revolution in the United States without understanding the Jewish question and fighting against Jew-hatred, just as working people in the United States cannot establish a workers and farmers government capable of ending the dictatorship of capital unless the fight against the national opp-

pression of 44 million African Americans is a central part of the struggle.

Understanding and acting on the fight against Jew-hatred in the U.S., where there are nearly 7 million Jews — more than in any other country, including Israel — is a life-or-death question for the working class.



pathfinderpress.com

## November BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Pathfinder Readers Club Specials

30% DISCOUNT

**Revolutionary Continuity: Birth of the Communist Movement, 1918-1922**

FARRELL DOBBS  
\$17. Special price \$12

**Cuba's Internationalist Foreign Policy**

Speeches, vol. 1, 1975-80  
FIDEL CASTRO  
\$23. Special price \$16

**Maurice Bishop Speaks**

The Grenada Revolution and Its Overthrow, 1979-83  
\$20. Special price \$14

**Socialism: Utopian and Scientific**

FREDERICK ENGELS  
\$10. Special price \$7

**Leon Trotsky Speaks**

\$20. Special price \$14

**Le tournant vers l'industrie: Forger un parti prolétarien**

(The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party)  
JACK BARNES  
\$15. Special price \$10.50

Join the Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT  
PATHFINDERPRESS.COM  
OFFER GOOD UNTIL December 10

## IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

### UNITED STATES

**CALIFORNIA: Oakland:** 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. Email: oaklandswp@gmail.com. **Los Angeles:** 2826 S. Vermont. Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 643-4968. Email: swpla@att.net

**FLORIDA: Miami:** 5711 NW 7th Ave. Unit B. Zip: 33127. Tel: (305) 929-8966. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

**GEORGIA: Atlanta:** 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. Email: swpatlanta@fastmail.com

**ILLINOIS: Chicago:** 1858 W. Cermak Road, 2nd floor. Zip: 60608. Tel: (312) 792-6160. Email: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

**MINNESOTA: Minneapolis:** 2401 1/2 Central Ave. NE, Unit B. Zip: 55418. Tel: (612) 271-1930. Email: swpminneapolis@gmail.com

**NEBRASKA: Lincoln:** P.O. Box 6811.

Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincoln@gmail.com

**NEW JERSEY:** 3600 Bergenline, Suite 205B, Union City. Zip: 07087. Tel: (551) 240-1512. swpnewjersey@gmail.com

**NEW YORK: New York:** 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com

**OHIO: Cincinnati:** 2300 Montana Ave., Suite 230. Tel: Zip: 45211. (513) 837-1038. Email: swpcincinnati@gmail.com

**PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia:** 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 313. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 610-2402. Email: swppittsburgh@gmail.com

**TEXAS: Dallas-Fort Worth:** 6815 Manhattan Blvd., Suite 108 Fort Worth. Zip: 76120. Tel: (817) 899-6720. Email: dfswp@gmail.com

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** 7603 Georgia Ave. NW, Suite 300. Zip: 20012. Tel: (202) 536-5080. Email: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

**WASHINGTON: Seattle:** 650 S. Orcas St., #120 Zip: 98108. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Email: swpseattle@gmail.com

### AUSTRALIA

**Sydney:** Suite 2, First floor, 275 George St., Liverpool. Postal Address: P.O. Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (61) 435-995-604. Email: cl\_australia@optusnet.com.au

### CANADA

**QUEBEC: Montreal:** 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. Email: cllcmontreal@fastmail.com

### FRANCE

**Paris:** BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

### UNITED KINGDOM

**ENGLAND: London:** 5 Norman Road (first floor). Seven Sisters. Post code: N15 4ND. Tel: 020-3538 8900. Email: cllondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** 329, Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. Post code: M2 7PE. Tel: (0161) 312-8119. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com

# Crises today draw workers into world politics

Statement by Naomi Craine, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress from Illinois, Nov. 15.

Hamas' bloody pogrom in Israel, orchestrated by Tehran, was the most deadly massacre of Jews since the Nazi extermination of 6 million people in the Holocaust. Moscow's genocidal attempt to destroy Ukraine and its people is the largest ground war in Europe since the horrors inflicted on working people by the imperialist powers — the U.S., U.K. and their rivals — in World War II.

The defeat of both Hamas and Moscow is in the interests of working people everywhere. It would provide better conditions for working people of all religions and nationalities to join together, organize and fight for what our class needs.

These battles mark a watershed in world politics, shaking up classes, parties and governments worldwide, with violent and explosive consequences. They herald a deepening crisis of the imperialist world order, one that will breed more social catastrophes, Jew-hatred and wars. Above all, the crisis is preparing the ground for revolutionary struggles by working people that can uproot the decaying capitalist system and the class violence we live under.

Millions of workers are being drawn into politics, as today's wars and economic disasters reach everywhere. They're open to discussing why workers need to see our class as an independent political force.

This watershed in world politics takes place amid an uptick in union battles. More workers are using their unions to fight for protection from the assaults by the profit-driven boss class. They're walking picket lines, learning confidence in one another, working to win solidarity and gaining vital class-struggle experience and know-how that bodes well for the deeper class battles that lie ahead.

The workings of capitalism have drawn unprecedented numbers into the working class — from Asia to Africa and Latin America — transforming our class into a social force with immense potential power.

Utilizing that power requires advancing workers' confidence in ourselves, rather than looking to those who exploit us, or to their political parties. It requires fighting Jew-hatred, the consequences of which were shown in the Holocaust, and defending all the oppressed from the forces of reaction.

It requires recognizing workers are part of a class with common interests, irreconcilably opposed to the capitalist class and their middle-class servants who insist we choose the lesser of two evils in every election.

Utilizing our power requires building a revolutionary party with a leadership that boldly charts a course to mobilize millions of workers of all nationalities to replace capitalist rule with workers power. This is an epoch of socialist revolution, not fascist reaction.

Join the Socialist Workers Party fighting for this class-struggle perspective.

## Democrats assault rights to keep Trump off ballot

Continued from front page from getting on the ballot.

On top of these brazen attempts to bar the Democrats' main political opponent from running, President Joseph Biden's Justice Department has cooked up a series of federal charges to try to throw Trump in prison. Special counsel Jack Smith is prosecuting the former president on charges of interfering with the count of the 2020 election, and for alleged violations of the witch hunt era Espionage Act. Additional civil cases in New York, charging him with business fraud and for making hush money payments to cover up sexual escapades, as well as racketeering conspiracy charges in Georgia, are all getting underway.

A total of 91 felony counts have been filed, overwhelmingly by Trump-hating Democratic politicians, cheered on by the liberal press and the Stalinist-minded middle-class left. They consider dangerous anyone who might vote for Trump, including tens of millions of working people. Basic freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution must be tossed aside, in their view, to prevent "semi-fascists," as Biden called Trump's supporters, from having a say at the ballot box.

Any attempt by one of the bosses' two parties to use the FBI and the courts to criminalize political differences with the other sets a dangerous precedent for workers. Similar and far worse will be used against us when our class acts independently of the bosses and their two main parties. Already onerous petitioning requirements are used in most states to try to keep the Socialist Workers Party and others off the ballot.

The U.S. Supreme Court let stand a law passed by the Democratic majority in the New York legislature that tripled petition requirements for new parties.

Fighting against Democrats' assaults on constitutional freedoms has nothing to do with supporting Trump's political views. He's a bourgeois politician, advocating his plans to prop up capitalist rule.

### State courts hear anti-Trump probes

Minnesota Chief Justice Natalie E. Hudson threw out one of the Reconstruction-era insurrection cases against Trump Nov. 8. "There is no state statute that prohibits a major political party from placing on the presidential nomination primary ballot, or sending delegates to the national convention supporting, a candidate who is ineligible to hold office," she wrote.

But the same day District Court Judge Sarah B. Wallace in Colorado refused Trump's motion to dismiss a similar case there.

"When it comes to decide who goes on the ballot,

the people decide, not six voters in Colorado," Trump attorney Scott Gessler told the court, referring to the six plaintiffs who brought the case to ban Trump from the state's 2024 ballot. Attacking free speech, his accusers claim his call to "fight" to overturn the 2020 vote count amounted to "insurrection."

"None of President Trump's words were a call to violence," Gessler said. "Fight" is a common, common, political metaphor meaning a political fight."

These state cases and the coverage of them in the liberal press call what took place on Jan. 6, 2021, an "insurrection." The Biden administration has since carried out a relentless FBI spy operation against participants in the pro-Trump rally and ensuing melee; prosecuted over 1,100 people; forced hundreds of plea deals; got convictions on thought-control seditious conspiracy charges, based largely on the provocations by FBI informants; and conducted a monthslong congressional show trial last year.

Despite all this, the administration has been unable to uncover anything remotely resembling an insurrection, no matter how many times the liberal media throws that word around.

On the eve of the second imperialist world war, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt administration charged 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and the Teamsters union in 1941 with conspiracy to overthrow the government. In a blatant assault on free speech, they were convicted of "teaching the duty, necessity, desirability and propriety of overthrowing the Government," under the notorious Smith Act. Count four of the indictment accused the SWP and Teamster leaders of persuading workers and farmers "that the Government of the United States was imperialistic."

The Smith Act is patently unconstitutional, but it remains on the books today, to be used when the ruling rich feel threatened by the rise of the working class.

As it decays, the imperialist world order breeds instability and more wars, and stirs up struggles by working people against the increasingly intolerable conditions we face. To protect their interests, the rulers more and more restrict basic political freedoms and unleash their main political-police agency, the FBI.

At the very same time, workers more and more need these rights, as we build unions, engage in political activity and fight for the things our class needs. Tenaciously safeguarding constitutional protections from attack by the government and the capitalist class it serves is indispensable to advancing working-class interests on the job, in the streets and in collaboration with fellow workers abroad.

## Kids kicked off Medicaid

Continued from front page

was ended, Democratic and Republican state authorities began kicking millions off the rolls. More than 8.5 million people have lost Medicaid benefits so far this year. Millions more are on the chopping block. According to the Commonwealth Fund, about 15 million people will lose Medicaid coverage during what they call a "redetermination" process.

One sign of the authorities' utter indifference toward workers is that a number of parents didn't find out that their children were no longer covered until they went to see a doctor or got drugs from a pharmacy. Without Medicaid insurance parents feel pressured to cancel doctor appointments because they can't cover the exorbitant expenses.

Parents "are being asked to make a decision between their children's health care and something else that is a necessity," Dr. Valerie Borum Smith, a pediatrician in Tyler, Texas, told the *Times*.

"When you can't help your kids, you feel like you're failing," Christina Ragsdale from Lady Lake, Florida, told the paper when her children twice lost Medicaid coverage. "Her 13-year-old son, Aaron, went without his A.D.H.D. medication at school until a family member covered the out-of-pocket costs, which ran over \$1,000 for a monthlong supply."

Nearly three-quarters of those removed from Medicaid rolls recently were for "procedural" reasons, including missing or incorrect paperwork, errors by state officials or outdated contact information. Efforts to get kids back on Medicaid can take awhile, given the bureaucratic hassles parents have to go through.

Since April, officials in Texas have kicked more people off Medicaid than any other state — 900,000 — nearly 80% of whom are children. Even before this, it had the nation's highest rate of uninsured, at 16.6%.

In response to outrage expressed by workers over these cuts, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued a letter Aug. 30 saying states had until Sept. 13 to fix what it called "operational issues" that were causing so many children to lose their coverage. But the letter has had little impact, as state authorities are still slashing the number of Medicaid enrollees.

These attacks are part and parcel of the broader assaults on health care provisions carried out by Democratic and Republican politicians alike. Infant mortality in the U.S. increased last year for the first time in two decades. The death rate for women who give birth has also been going up, as maternity wards and rural hospitals are closing.

### Workers bear brunt of crisis

Declining access to health care is one piece of the capitalists' broader offensive aimed at putting the crisis of their for-profit system on workers' backs.

Despite liberal media proclamations about the roaring success of President Joseph Biden's economic policies, a report found U.S. consumer spending had fallen for the last four consecutive months. Over the year since October 2022, credit-card debt rose by \$154 billion, the largest rise on record. Even McDonald's CEO Chris Kempczinski had to admit last month that far fewer "low-income consumers" were able to afford taking their families to the fast-food giant, renowned as one of the cheapest, compared to a year ago.

At the same time, it's getting harder to get a job. Unemployment has risen half a percent since April and the number of seasonal jobs advertised this fall is the lowest in a decade.

"Unions must lead a fight for jobs with wages, work schedules and conditions necessary for families to live rather than get torn apart," Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Texas, told the *Militant*.

"Health care should be a right, available and free to all, not a profit-making business," she said. "To win this, workers need to build a revolutionary party that can lead millions to take political power into our own hands and run society in the interests of the majority."

### 'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the 'Militant' and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)